

REMARKS

Reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

New claims 29 and 30 are presented with this response. These claims are patterned after claims already of record, but are more specific in defining how the molten polymer components are combined to produce bicomponent filaments. The additional language recited in these claims is fully supported in the detailed description as filed. See, for example, the description at pages 6 and 7.

Claims 1 and 4 – 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. US 6,737,009 in view of Kent US 5,885,705.

The Taylor et al. reference was filed August 2, 2001 and was published on May 30, 2002, after the August 2, 2001 filing date of the present application. Thus, this reference does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102 (a) or (b). The Taylor et al. reference is assigned to BBA Nonwovens Simpsonville, Inc. which is also the same assignee as the present application. The present application and the Taylor et al. reference were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by BBA Nonwovens Simpsonville, Inc. and subject to an obligation of assignment by the inventors to BBA Nonwovens Simpsonville, Inc. Accordingly, the Taylor et al. reference is disqualified as prior art. Reconsideration by the Examiner and withdrawal of the rejection are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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